

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 17-34 are pending in the present application. In the outstanding Official Action, claims 19-26 were rejected. Claims 17-18 and 27-34 were allowed. In the present amendment claim 19 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

In the outstanding Official Action, the specification was objected to for allegedly containing an informality. The outstanding Official Action alleged that the term "HEPES" was an abbreviation and requested that the term be spelled out in full at the first instance of use in the present specification at page 11, line 17. While Applicants submit that the term "HEPES" would be clearly recognized and understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, in the interest of advancing prosecution, the specification has been amended so that the term has been spelled out in full at page 11, line 17. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 19-26 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly

claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. It is believed that the present invention obviates this rejection.

The outstanding Official Action alleged that the term "the mixture" lacked antecedent basis. Moreover, the Official Action alleged that the term was unclear. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a step of mixing a sample suspected of containing the desired target substance with a cell line having granule secretion capability to form a mixture. The mixing may occur after or during step A. It is believed to be apparent that the term refers to a mixture of cell lines and a sample and that claim 19 is definite to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Thus, in view of the above, it is believed that the present amendment obviates the contentions of the outstanding Official Action and that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

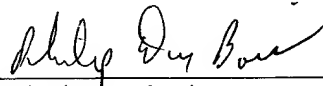
The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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